

an aircraft carrier-based fighter, the F6F Hellcat, as a member of fighter squadrons VF-17 and VF-18 in two major operations in the Pacific Theater. With 8¾ confirmed kills, Lt. Cdr. Watts earned the designation as an American Fighter Ace. Of the more than sixty thousand American fighter pilots who have served since World War I, less than 1,500 have achieved the elite status of Fighter Ace.

In 1947, Mr. Watts graduated from Southern Methodist University (SMU) and began work in the Production Department for Humble Oil Company (later Exxon). He lived in and around the Houston area until transferring to Baytown in 1963. Billy finished his career in the Houston Office in 1982.

Mr. Watts served as an active member and treasurer of both Grace United Methodist Church and later Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church. He was a faithful church member and took numerous camping trips with the Methodist Camping Group.

Upon his discharge from the Navy, Mr. Watts met his future wife Wanda Lee Dodson of Van, Texas and celebrated their seventy-second wedding anniversary on December 2, 2017. Billy is survived by his wife Wanda, three children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Lt. Cdr. Watts was proud of his Naval service and was active with the American Fighter Aces Association and was one of four aces invited to the White House for the signing of The American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act. A year later, Mr. Watts returned to the United States Capitol and received his Congressional Gold Medal. As his Congressman, and fellow veteran, it was a tremendous honor and privilege to meet Lt. Cdr. Watts and participate in the presentation of his Congressional Gold Medal. Lt. Cdr. Watts' many military decorations include: the Navy Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross with two Gold Stars, Purple Heart, the Air Medal with seven Gold Stars, and two Presidential citations for serving on the USS *Bunker Hill* and USS *Homet* aircraft carriers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Lieutenant Commander Charles Edward "Billy" Watts for his bravery, sacrifice, and service to our great nation. May God bless Mr. Watts, all of our World War II veterans, and all of those who have served or are currently serving.

**HONORING THE TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL WE THE PEOPLE TEAM'S SUCCESS AT CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY'S WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION COMPETITION**

### **HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trumbull High School's first place finish at Connecticut State University's We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition.

Every year, thousands of high school students contend in state and national We the People competitions, in which participants explore and debate the origins and import of our nation's Constitution. Trumbull High School students have long excelled in this competi-

tion. Their victory in 2017 marked their seventh consecutive state championship under the leadership of social studies teacher and coach Katie Boland. Overall, Trumbull High School students have won the Connecticut finals 23 times since the school began competing in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the exceptional academic prowess and intellectual curiosity the 29 Trumbull High School seniors on the team demonstrated in preparing for this competition. They researched the historical and philosophical underpinnings of the Constitution and applied their findings to the Constitutional issues of today. While the students have enjoyed a well-earned victory, they are already hard at work preparing for the We the People 2018 National Finals in April.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing these students—Lindsay Adams, Natalie Almonacid, Samantha Almonacid, Ethan Bachand, Max Bowen, Emma Butler, Shane Carley, Morgan Carrano, Danielle Cross, Connor Flaherty, Lalith Gannavaram, Sarah Giaquinto, Joseph Guedes, Gillian Kick, Manya Kidambi, Allie Lewis, Julia Luow, Lauren Luow, Stefano Mancini, Derek Marble, Mariam Marino, Mia McKinney, Joshua Merkin, Ishan Negi, Jessica Parillo, Joseph Piccolo, Laura Rosales, Alev Yorulmaz and Larry Zhang. I join the proud Trumbull community in wishing these students the best of luck as they continue to expand their understanding of the Constitution and the role it plays in upholding America's civic life.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 676

### **HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 676, a bipartisan resolution that expresses support for the citizens of Iran.

The Iranian people should be allowed to express legitimate grievances without violent retribution from their own government. As Iranians chant "think of us," their government has responded with brute force. Twenty-one people have been killed and hundreds more await an uncertain fate after being arrested. Three young Iranians have died in jail, including Sina Ghanbari, a student who was being held in Iran's notorious Evin prison.

The regime's violent suppression of dissent should come as no surprise, given its long history of denying its own citizens fundamental human rights. Torture is widespread, members of religious minorities like the Baha'i face constant persecution, and the number of executions in Iran has skyrocketed under President Rouhani.

These protests also highlight how the Iranian regime has harmed its own people by spending billions of dollars to foment aggression and destabilize the region. While Iran suffers from a youth unemployment rate of nearly 40 percent and economic hardship, the regime continues to bankroll the Assad regime in Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen. The Iranian people are outraged, and their leaders should take notice when crowds are heard chanting, "I give my life for Iran, not Gaza, [and] not Lebanon."

Adoption of this resolution will send a clear message to the brave voices in Iran crying out for a better future that the United States stands with them.

### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE SHOWMAN ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

#### **HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (P.S.S.A.) on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

I look forward to joining them Friday evening at the annual Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association Convention as they celebrate this monumental milestone.

The Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (P.S.S.A.) has served to keep the Outdoor Amusement Industry alive and strong through their combined efforts.

The P.S.S.A. has grown because its members have learned to put their individual goals aside for the common goals of the Industry. This unity really has the strength and foresight necessary to continue its work into the next century.

The annual convention and trade show brings together board members, volunteers and staff from most of the 109 Pennsylvania county and local fairs.

For 14 years its support of scholarships has generated more than \$200,000. The P.S.S.A.'s investment in our Commonwealth's next generation of leadership is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association for working to the best of its ability to keep the Outdoor Amusement Industry the best of America's Family Entertainment.

Congratulations and Happy 50th anniversary.

### **PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

#### **HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 due to hazardous weather conditions.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted as follows: on H.R. 4318, the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act, as amended, I would have voted Yea; on S. 117, the Alex Diekmann Peak Designation Act of 2017, I would have voted Yea; and on the Journal Vote, I would have voted No.

### **PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

#### **HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I was sick on January 16, 2018, and missed the votes on Roll Call No. 018 and Roll Call No. 019.